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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1930.

If Mr. McCandless promulgated his sewer tax with a view to hastening municipal government for Honolulu, he is to be congratulated on the probable success of the movement.

It is now within the province of the Republican executive committee to prove that a majority of the men appointed on its charter commission are not opposed to a municipal charter.

According to the report of justice as she is administered in Kona, given by the Hilo Tribune, the Kona canary exerts a power in official life that ought to make it worthy of a representation in the Territorial cabinet.

C. O. Zeigler has his faults like the average humanity. That he played the shyster, as indicated by the morning organ with an axe to grind, is not borne out by the facts as known nor by his career previous to his arrival in this country.

Land Commissioner Brown is bound on as difficult and distressing a mission as the special agent and unofficial delegate of fond memory. Brown's handicap is the fact that he is an understrapper and is supposed to have business enough in the local office to occupy his time. It is to be hoped the expenses of his trip will not be charged up to the taxpayers through the diplomatic and consular appropriation.

Who will pay the bill when a carriage is dumped into the Rapid Transit subway on Wilder avenue. Almost the entire length of the street is absolutely free from any protection against teams being toppled over into the track ditch by an unmanageable horse. The narrow passageway left for teams is full of gullies as a lumber road in the backwoods. This is another evidence of the advantage of centralized government.

What Hawaii can do in the way of diversified agriculture to supply its own market and what it is doing are as widely removed as the magnetic poles. Let the planters once approach the labor problem on the basis of cooperation, offering homes for American or European families, and the problem of living expenses, citizenship, small farming and sugar dividends will work out speedily and with the greatest possible benefit to present and future citizens and industry.

An ex-president of the Chamber of Commerce is credited with the statement that Honolulu has no particular attractions for tourists. If this be true, the hotel men and steamship companies have invested in gold bricks. It is not true and the only cause for such a statement must be a desire to take things easy and stand off the time and money required to properly advertise the country. It is about time the merchants and business men directly interested in this work formed an organization, merchants' association or board of trade, that has time to devote to subjects of this character and is not entirely swallowed up in the overwhelming ponderosity of the "vast" interests of the islands. What the merchants of New York and any number of smaller American cities found necessary is equally important to Honolulu.

Officials of the Hawaiian Electric Company are disposed to believe that criticism of the plant's temporary break down is unfair in view of the money and effort being expended for improvement. The electric company has been operating under and obtaining the large financial benefits of an exclusive franchise. This presupposes that their plant shall at all times be in a condition to supply the demands made upon it, that it shall have auxiliary machinery to be brought into service on occasions of inevitable breaks. Any first class electrical plant of the United States where competition is sharpest has such machinery. How much more important is it that such equipment should be possessed by a plant having a monopoly protected by law. The fact that such additions are being made as the exclusive features of the charter are about to expire simply go to show wherein the corporation has failed in the past to fulfill what is practically a contract with the people.

THE SEWER TAX.

By putting a sewer tax, upon the property holder, Superintendent McCandless has furnished a very positive argument in favor of municipal government. If double taxation were more completely accomplished, the instance has to be sought in some European city where taxes are levied according to the number of windows in a house or the number of servants employed. Mr. McCandless is credited to his interview with the Republican as saying, "I believe it better for the users to stand the expense than to raise the

money by taxation whereby the people of the other islands would be dragged in. It would not be fair to ask the people of Hilo for instance to help stand the expense of a sewer system used only in the heart of Honolulu."

This is true indeed. Nor is it fair to ask the people of Hilo for instance to help stand the expense of any Honolulu public improvement of which this city is the direct beneficiary. On the same basis of Mr. McCandless' sewer argument why should he not make the specially favored householders pay a tax for the removal of garbage. If this general scheme is endorsed by the Legislature under the present form of centralized government means that the total taxes paid by the householders of this city will within a comparatively short time be higher than those charged by the most "corrupt" city in the United States. The present saving factor in Mr. McCandless' order is that sewer connections now are not demanded by the department.

What with a one per cent tax on full valuation of property, sewer tax, and tax upon the small business men by means of licenses, and salaries officials drawing down more pay than the Governor of the Territory, it is about time that Honolulu was placed in a position to stand on its own bottom. Possibility of any public official arbitrarily placing a price on the use of public work constructed by the people's funds indicates a condition where centralization of power has about played its limit.

SHRINERS RETURN MONEY.

Hilo, Dec. 14.—The Shriners still remember with pleasure their Hawaiian pilgrimage, and particularly that portion of it in which they rested at the oasis in Hilo. Mr. Peck has just received from their Secretary, J. H. Goldman a request for a list of all the members of the various committees which took charge of their entertainment. Also a check for \$27 which shows a very nice spirit on the part of the Shriners. It seems that when our local music fell asleep on the night of the hall, and terpsichorean operations were thus suspended, the musicians of the Zealandia were requested to fill the gap and charged the entertainment committee the above amount. This was at the time unsuspected by the Shriners, as they had paid the band for all services on the trip. A short time they found it out and returned the amount by the last mail, although of course they were under no obligation to do so.

Muster Rough Riders Out.

[New York Evening Post.] Is not Roosevelt's regiment in need of defence from its own colonel? He is working it harder than ever the Spaniards did. Its latest forced march was into a letter of the Governor's acknowledging the gratifying news that Princeton University was strongly for McKinley and Roosevelt. Out came the inevitable regiment. Princeton men were in it, and "there was no more gallant fighter in a regiment of fighting men." If this thing goes on, the Six Hundred will surrender their fame to the Rough Riders. In 1904 we shall see Roosevelt thanking the Hyphenated Hibernians for supporting him for the presidency, and assuring them that the Irish in his regiment were simply holy terrorists. In 1912, after his second term, ex-President Roosevelt will make a tour of the world and will severely congratulate the nations of the earth on each having a representative in his regiment, each one a little more of a death dealer than the other. By the time the Republican National Convention of 1920 rolls round, Roosevelt will give the delegates a little novel information about his fighting regiment. Dear Governor, do muster out your men. They have served you long and faithfully, and deserve a rest. So does

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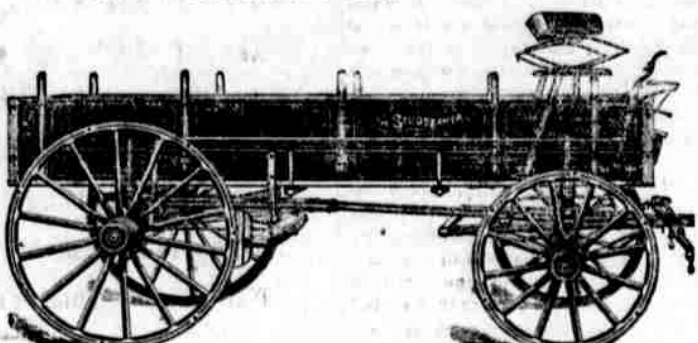
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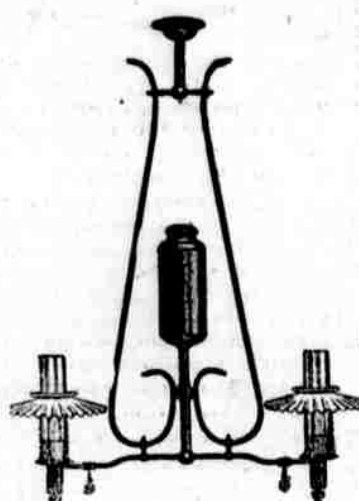
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